

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00363 100857Z POSS DUPE
ACTION COME-00

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0363

FOR NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (UMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS ETRD IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN FISHERIES CATCHES AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

REF: STATE 303763, 1976

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS
FROM BOMBAY JAN 07 REPEATED:

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0080

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, IN
SUBJ: INDIAN FISHERIES CATCHES AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

REF: (A) STETE 303763; (B) NEW DELHI 18705; (C) MADRAS 0040

1. OUR DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE
LARGE FISHING FIRMS AND AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, BY AND
LARGE, CORROBORATE FINDINGS REPORTED IN REF (CGLM FOLLOWING
INDUSTRY DATA IS TO SUPPLEMENT MADRAS' ROUND-UP.

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2. OUR INDUSTRY CONTACTS BELIEVED THAT UNUSUALLY HIGH SHRIMP
PRICES IN THE JAPANESE AND US MARKETS IN 1976 TRIGGERED
BUOYANCY IN INDIAN EXPORTS. THEY, HOWEVER, DID NOT IDENTIFY
REASONS FOR NEW HIGH IN PRICES EXCEPT STATING THAT IMPROVED
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THESE COUNTRIES LED TO INCREASED
DEMAND. WITH THE END OF FESTIVAL SEASON IN US AND HEAVY
POST-CHRISTMAS INVENTORY AT HAND WITH IMPORTERS, INDIAN

EXPORTERS ANTICIPATE SOME SCALE-DOWN IN PRICE LEVEL BUT ARE STILL HOPEFUL OF GOOD BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN TERMS OF PRICE AND DEMAND FROM MARCH ONWARDS.

3. SHRIMP LANDINGS IN MAHARASHTRA COAST ARE BELIEVED TO BE AVERAGE IN 1976 BUT GUJARAT COASTLINE SHOWED AN IMPROVEMENT IN CATCH. EXPORTERS ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE YIELDS THROUGH EXTENSIVE DISBURSEMENT OF ADVANCE MONEY TO LOCAL FISHERMEN ENCOURAGING THEM TO INTENSIFY OPERATIONS. THERE IS LITTLE TRAWLER OPERATIONS ON UPPER WEST COAST SINCE MOST OF THE TRAWLERS ARE DEPLOYED ON EAST COAST WHERE SHRIMP LANDINGS ARE BELIEVED TO BE HIGHER, THEIR QUALITY BETTER, AND THERE IS LESS COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FISHERMEN.

4. IN SUPPORT OF COMMENT MADE IN PARA 6 REF (C), WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHRIMP REJECTION RATE IN US IN 1976 WAS WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS. OUR CONTACTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ARRANGEMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN FDA AND INDIAN GOVERNMENT ON PRESHIPMENT INSPECTION OF MARINE PRODUCE. THEY ALSO CREDITED THE LOCAL REGULATORY AGENCY WITH EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF EXPORT QUALITY. FROG LEGS, HOWEVER, ARE ANOTHER MATTER SINCE ITS BASIC PROCESSING IS HANDLED BY SMALL FIRMS HERE HAVING INADEQUATE FACILITIES. WE WERE TOLD THAT LARGE FIRMS ARE DISINCLINED TO HANDLE FROG LEG EXPORTS TO US FOR REASONS OF HIGH REJECTION RATE, NON-AVAILABILITY OF INSURANCE COVER AND CONSEQUENT BAD NAME IN THE MARKET.

5. REF A (PAR 6) NO CREDIBLE INFORMATION ON UNDP PROGRAM
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FOR SURVEY OF WESTERN CONTINENTAL SHELF IS AVAILABLE IN BOMBAY. WE WERE INFORMED THAT DATA ON SUBJECT CAN BE HAD ONLY FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GOI, NEW DELHI. HOWEVER, ONE CONSULTANT TOLD US THAT UNDP COMPLETED SURVEY ON FISHERY RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR ESTABLISHING A VIABLE FISHING INDUSTRY ON WEST COAST. HE STATED THAT FUNDING FOR HARBOR DEVELOPMENT AND PURCHASE OF TRAWLERS IS LIKELY TO COME FROM WORLD BANK.

6. ON INDO-POLISH AGREEMENT RELATING TO SURVEY OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT COASTS ONE SOURCE INDICATED THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. A POLISH SURVEY VESSEL WITH EXPORTS IS EXPECTED IN BOMBAY THIS MONTH. IN THE MEANWHILE, POLES ARE BELIEVED TO BE SEEKING "LETTERS OF INTENT" FROM INDIAN FISHING FIRMS ON JOINT FISHING VENTURES. WE LEARN THAT TWO OR THREE FIRMS HAVE EVINCED TENTATIVE INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF SURVEY AND FEASIBILITY OF THE SUGGESTED PROJECT.

7. ONE SOURCE INFORMED US THAT GOI IS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE A BILL IN PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD ENTITLE MARITIME STATE GOVERNMENTS CONTROL OVER FISHING AREAS OFFSHORE TO THEIR COASTS. SHOULD THE BILL BEENACTED, STATE GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ALLOT SPECIFIC AREAS TO VARIOUS FIRMS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FISHING OFF THEIR COASTS. THE SOURCE BELIEVED THAT IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY LARGE FISHING FIRMS USING TRAWLERS WOULD HAVE RESTRICTED OPERATIONAL FREEDOM.COURTNEY

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